

Queen's Students' Union: Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Welfare

Name: Jess Hindley

Period Covered: March 2024

Introduction

As the Welfare Officer, my role is to represent the interests of students in all matters related to their welfare. This is a broad remit which includes improving issues related to housing, accommodation, student safety, physical health, sexual health, mental health, and wellbeing. To achieve this, I lobby relevant departments and people within the university and local government; engage with external and internal groups; and run student events throughout the year.

My main priorities this year include tackling issues relating to student housing, implementing comprehensive drug harm reduction mechanisms across Queen's, and fostering a consent culture across campus.

Meetings

- Attended **Scam Education and Awareness Committee**
- Met with the Belfast Trust to discuss the **Sexual Health Clinic** in the Students' Union
- Chaired the second meeting of the student **Drugs and Alcohol Harm Reduction Working Group**, discussing priorities for the year and lobbying opportunities
- Met with the **Belfast Housing Co-ops** group to begin working with them on the future of student housing in Belfast
- Met with SOS-UK for our monthly **Drugs and Alcohol Impact Support Call**
- Attended **#QUBeWell Management Group**, led a presentation on the Drug and Alcohol Impact programme
- Met with the Disability and Wellbeing team to discuss a potential **Alcohol Early Intervention programme**

Events

- Attended the General Election briefing on the **future of higher education fees and funding**
- Outreach at BT2
- Participated in an **Act in Activism** session at Linen Hall Library
- Manned at stand at the **Spiking Awareness Event**, handing out student safety and anti-spiking kits
- Attended **NUS-USI Conference**: presented our policy on Political Mobilisation and Democratisation and participated in further policy workshops

Campaigns

- **Drug and Alcohol Impact (DAI)** – Solid progress is being made; meetings have been used to discuss progress so far and our approach over the next 3 months
- **Welcome and Orientation** – Continued discussions surrounding the new welcome experience plans. Finalised the proposal for Education Committee - which was approved.